



Vol. 3 Issue 8 August 2020

IMPACT UPDATE

Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III
Superintendent

Contents

PHOTOS: 151st Trooper
Candidate Class Graduation

LTC Butler Promoted To Field
Operations Bureau Chief

LTC Dofflemyer Promoted To
Criminal Investigation Bureau
Chief

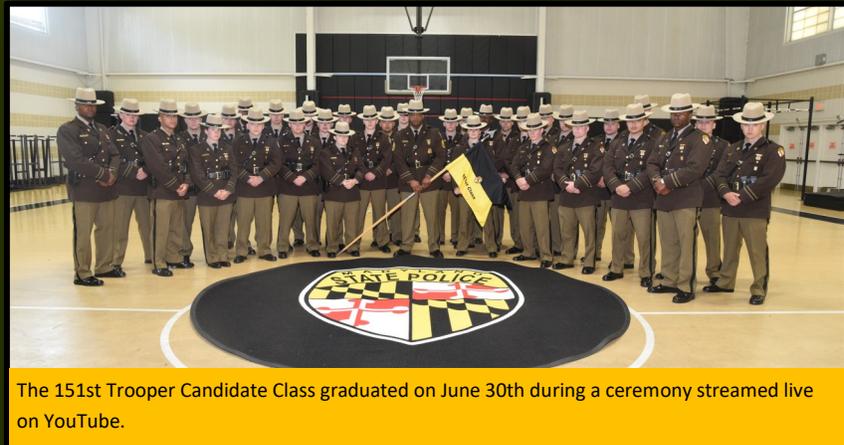
Investigation Leads to Drug
Trafficking Arrests

Trooper Honored For Work
On Mental Health Calls

MSP Helicopter Hoists
Victim From Liberty Dam

Troopers, Allied Agencies
Combat Violent Crime

MSP Licensing Division
Completes Background
Investigations After Delay



The 151st Trooper Candidate Class graduated on June 30th during a ceremony streamed live on YouTube.

New Troopers Join MSP Ranks Following Different, Distanced Graduation

(WESTMINSTER, MD) – For the first time ever, trooper candidates took their oath in a graduation ceremony that was live-streamed June 30th on social media due to continuing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a limited number of state police officials and proud family members looked on from an appropriate distance away, the graduates of the Maryland State Police 151st Trooper Candidate Class raised their right hands and took an oath to serve and protect the people of Maryland as they officially became state troopers.

Pandemic guidelines required the 33 members of the trooper candidate class to complete months of a residen-

tial police training academy in Sykesville, Maryland, in quarantine. Since May 11th, graduates were mandated to remain at the training academy around-the-clock, including weekends.

Among the members of the class, eight have prior military experience, two previously worked in law enforcement or corrections and eight were Maryland State Police cadets.

Nineteen of the recruits have college degrees and another 16 are enrolled in the concurrent Associate of Arts program with Frederick Community College and have been obtaining their degrees as they attend the Academy.



IMPACT UPDATE

PHOTOS: 151st Maryland State Police Trooper Candidate Class Graduation



“It is truly a testament to the kind of men and women you are, that you have chosen to join this proud fellowship of Maryland State Police troopers at this particular time, facing these particular challenges,” - MSP Superintendent Col Woodrow W. Jones III



Questions or comments? Email us at msp.media@maryland.gov or call 410-653-4236



IMPACT UPDATE

LTC Roland L. Butler, Jr. Promoted To Field Operations Bureau Chief

Effective July 1, 2020, Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Woodrow Jones III, promoted Major Roland Butler to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and appointed him Chief of the Field Operations Bureau.

Lieutenant Colonel Roland L. Butler, Jr. was born and raised in the District of Columbia. He was educated in the Washington Archdiocese educational system and graduated from Mackin Catholic High School in 1988. After attending Howard University for a short period, he chose to follow his dream of becoming a Maryland State Trooper. He was a member of the 105th Maryland State Police Academy Class and upon graduation, was assigned to the Leonardtown Barrack in St. Mary's County. In 1997, he was named both the Leonardtown Barrack and Southern Region Trooper of the Year.

During his career in the Maryland State Police Field Operations Bureau, Lieutenant Colonel Butler has worked numerous assignments in Southern Maryland and Northern Maryland. He has also worked on the Superintendent's Staff, in the Office of Fair Practices, within the Maryland State Police Support Services Bureau, and the Field Operations Bureau.



LTC Roland L. Butler Jr.
Chief of the Field Operations Bureau

In his 26th year of service with the Maryland State Police, Lieutenant Colonel Butler is the sixth African-American Lieutenant Colonel in the 99-year history of the Maryland Department of State Police history. The Field Operations Bureau consists of over 1000 troopers and investigative personnel assigned to 23 barracks across the state. Lieutenant Colonel Butler effectively commands, monitors performance, and develops operational plans to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and contribution to the reduction of crime, traffic hazards, transportation accidents, radiological threats, natural disasters, acts of terrorism and disruptions within the state.

Lieutenant Colonel Butler has been the lead in numerous joint local and federal exercises involving homeland security, emergency management, security details for Presidential escorts and the exterior security detail for FedEx Field.

As an Assistant Bureau Chief, Major Butler participated in department and inter-agency committees as a member of the Bias-Based Policing Review Committee, making recommendations regarding changes to existing policies and training. He also represents the Superintendent on the Governor's Justice Reinvestment Act Oversight Board, Mental and Behavioral Health Commission and the department's Awards Review Committee.

Lieutenant Colonel Butler holds both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Organizational Leadership from Johns Hopkins University, Public Safety Leadership program. He is also a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.



IMPACT UPDATE

LTC Norman “Bill” Dofflemyer Promoted To Criminal Investigation Bureau Chief

On June 17, 2020, Colonel Woodrow Jones III promoted Major Norman “Bill” Dofflemyer to the rank of lieutenant colonel and appointed him chief of the Criminal Investigation Bureau.

Lt. Colonel Dofflemyer is a 35-year veteran of the Maryland State Police. He has served in various capacities in the Department to include patrol, accident reconstruction, criminal investigation supervisor, Glen Burnie Barrack commander, assistant commander of the Drug Enforcement Division, commander of the Criminal Intelligence Division and numerous other assignments.

Lieutenant Colonel Dofflemyer served as the Division commander for the Maryland State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division for 14 years.

During that time, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division was recognized by two national research efforts as one of the top commercial vehicle enforcement units in the nation.

Under his command, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division was twice recognized by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for its comprehensive investigations



LTC Norman “Bill” Dofflemyer
Chief of the Criminal Investigation Bureau

focused on motor carriers that were chronic violators of safety regulations and practices.

Lieutenant Colonel Dofflemyer was also appointed to a congressionally-mandated advisory committee of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, where he served not only as a law enforcement representative, but also as a co-chairman of a sub-committee.

It was his work in commercial vehicle enforcement safety that earned him the Governor’s Commendation.

In September 2015, he was appointed assistant bureau chief in charge of the Maryland State

Police Special Operations Command.

It was in this position that Lieutenant Colonel Dofflemyer coordinated state and allied law enforcement resources to respond and manage the Baltimore civil unrest, Gubernatorial and Presidential Inaugurations, and other major incidents, to include natural or manmade disasters.

Most recently, he led the coordination and best practices effort for all law enforcement throughout the state during the coronavirus pandemic, working with not only Maryland State Police personnel, but other state and local health departments.

Lieutenant Colonel Dofflemyer has a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland and a Master’s degree from Johns Hopkins University.

He also continues to serve his community as a volunteer firefighter, which he has done for more than 40 years.



IMPACT UPDATE

Multi-Jurisdictional Investigation Dismantles Western MD Drug Trafficking Organization

(CUMBERLAND, MD) – The Maryland State Police Heroin Investigative Unit, led by the Allegany County Narcotics Task Force, identified and arrested the leader of a drug trafficking organization comprised of Blood street gang members and associates involved in the distribution of fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine, and the trafficking of firearms from New York to Allegany County.

“Operation Blood Clot,” was the investigative effort initiated in July, 2019, by the Maryland State Police Heroin Investigative Unit, in conjunction with the Allegany County Narcotics Task Force and the Allegany County State’s Attorney’s Office. The investigation targeted a drug trafficking organization responsible for distributing large quantities of fentanyl, heroin and cocaine. The year-long investigation resulted in Juerbar Otis Thomas, 43, of Cumberland, being indicted by an Allegany County Grand Jury on 64 drug-related offenses, to include a charge of being a drug kingpin.

On May 25, 2020, investigators with the Allegany County Narcotics Task Force, Maryland State Police Gang Enforcement Unit, STATE Team, Cumberland Barrack and Homicide Unit, along with the West Virginia State

Police, Cumberland Police Department, Allegany County Sheriff’s Office, and Frostburg City Police Department, served search warrants in Cumberland and West Virginia.

Large amounts of suspected fentanyl, heroin, crack cocaine,



drug-related cash and firearms were recovered by police. During the investigation, police recovered 13 guns. Drugs they recovered included more than 1,200 grams of fentanyl with a street value of more than \$192,000, more than 99 grams of heroin with a street value of almost \$16,000 and more than 475 grams of cocaine with a street value of more than \$47,500. The investigation developed sufficient evidence to allege Thomas was the organizer, supervisor and manager of the drug trafficking organization.

Investigators allege Thomas obtained fentanyl, heroin and cocaine from Bronx, New York and distributed those drugs in Allegany County, Maryland and West Virginia.

Thomas and his associates were also believed to be manufacturing fentanyl and heroin pills which mimicked prescription opioid pills. Thomas was arrested May 25th and has been held without bond in the Allegany County Detention Center since. An Allegany Grand Jury also indicted 20 co-conspirators in connection with Thomas’s drug trafficking organization.

Also participating in the investigation was the Cumberland City Police Department and Allegany County Sheriff’s Office, under the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN). The Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services provides grant funding and strategic support to MCIN member sites to identify, disrupt, and dismantle criminal organizations through inter-agency collaboration and data sharing to make Maryland safer.



IMPACT UPDATE

Trooper Honored For Work With Mental Health, Substance Abuse Calls For Service

Cpl. Casey Ruth of the Prince Frederick Barrack was recently recognized for her work with substance abuse and mental health calls for service.

Cpl. Ruth received this award from Calvert County Behavioral Health and the Calvert County Health Department in recognition of her outstanding dedication and service to the Calvert County community. Corporal Ruth was nominated for multiple reasons. When Cpl. Ruth attended James Madison University, part of her major involved classes dealing with mental illness

within the criminal justice system. After obtaining her bachelor's degree in crime and criminology, she completed the Southern Maryland Crisis Intervention Team training in October 2019.

In February, she completed the Train-the-Trainer course for the Southern Maryland Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). This allows her to teach CIT techniques, de-escalation techniques and other possible indicators of individuals with mental illness or individuals in the midst of a crisis to troopers and law enforcement officers statewide.



Cpl. Casey Ruth of the Prince Frederick Barrack

Troopers Arrest 90 For DUI Over Fourth of July Weekend

During the Fourth of July weekend, Maryland State Police troopers worked diligently to ensure the safety of motorists trying to enjoy the holiday.

Troopers arrested 90 impaired drivers over the weekend, compared with 85 DUI arrests over the same period in 2019. Troopers on the State Police Impaired Driving Reduction Team, or SPIDRE Team, made fifteen of those arrests this year. Among those arrests by the SPIDRE Team, the

average blood alcohol content of the suspects was .16, which is twice the legal limit.

Overall, troopers issued 4,146 traffic citations and 3,817 warnings during the holiday weekend, both of which represent slight increases from last year. In addition, Maryland State Police responded to 19 suspected DUI crashes between July 3-5, 2020.

Those crashes, which occurred across the state, included at least 12 that involved multiple vehicles

and led to at least 18 arrests for driving under the influence. None of the crashes involved a fatality (although troopers did respond to two fatal crashes over the weekend).

This highlights the dangers of impaired driving and just how many lives can be impacted when motorists are irresponsible while behind the wheel.



IMPACT UPDATE



State Police Helicopter Hoists Victim From Liberty Dam

(CARROLL COUNTY, MD) – On Tuesday, June 30th at approximately 4:20 pm, Maryland State Police Helicopter Trooper 3, based at Frederick Municipal Airport, was dispatched to Liberty Dam in Carroll County, MD to hoist a victim who was seen in the water floating in the prone position at the base of the dam. The dam is approximately 415 feet high and is surrounded by very steep terrain.

Fire and rescue personnel arrived on scene and provided emergency medical care to the victim. Due to the difficulty traversing the steep terrain to access the victim, a Maryland State Police helicopter was dispatched.

The helicopter crew configured Trooper 3 for an aerial hoist operation and arrived overhead. The pilots maneuvered the AW-139 helicopter into a steady hover position 160 feet above the rescue crews and victim. A trooper/rescue technician with medical equipment was lowered to the scene. The trooper/rescue technician assisted with lifesaving care, patient stabilization and securing the patient into the rescue litter. The trooper/rescue technician and victim were hoisted up to the helicopter. Once the patient was secured inside the aircraft, Trooper 3 transitioned to its medevac role and transported the patient to the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, for further treatment.

The Maryland State Police Aviation Command has served Maryland citizens since 1970 and operates a fleet of ten helicopters from seven bases throughout Maryland on a 24/7/365 basis. Missions include medevac, law enforcement, search & rescue, homeland security, and disaster assessment. The success of rescues performed by the Aviation Command depends a great deal on the cooperative effort of local fire, rescue, EMS and law enforcement agencies.



IMPACT UPDATE

MD State Police Works With Allied Agencies To Combat Violent Crime From Cumberland To Ocean City

(BALTIMORE, MD) – Maryland State Police, in conjunction with allied agencies, arrested several suspects in late June as part of the department's effort to reduce violent crime across the state.

Troopers with the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division – Firearms Enforcement Unit served Markell Julian Watkins, 27, of Baltimore, Maryland, on June 24 with an arrest warrant on firearms-related charges. The warrant charged Watkins with the possession of a non-regulated firearm and possession of a firearm with a felony conviction.

On June 25, troopers served a second suspect, Benjamin Swigert Claar, 19, of Baltimore, Maryland with a criminal summons for being in possession of a firearm while being convicted of a disqualifying crime. According to a preliminary investigation, troopers from the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division – Firearms Enforcement Unit, in collaboration with the Ocean City Police Department, obtained information that led troopers to initiating a criminal investigation into Watkins.

During the course of the investigation, troopers learned that Watkins was previously arrested for possessing a regulated firearm in

Ocean City, Maryland. Watkins is prohibited from possessing firearms because of a disqualifying crime.

The investigation led troopers to serve a search warrant on Watkins' residence, where they recovered an additional firearm and



firearms-related parts. Watkins is being held at the Baltimore County Detention Center on a no bond status.

Also on June 25, troopers with the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division – Disapproval Unit, served Jamel Lamont Matthews, 26, of Baltimore, Maryland, with an open arrest warrant through the Baltimore Police Department. Matthews had an open warrant for making a false statement to police. He was released to Baltimore City Central Booking Intake Facility.

Troopers with the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division – Firearms Enforcement Unit, served James Jong Rhee, 40, of Cumberland, Maryland, on June 25, with an arrest warrant. Rhee had an open warrant for electronic harassment and harassment: course of conduct. Rhee was later released on his own recognizance.

Finally, on June 23, troopers with the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division – Firearms Enforcement Unit served Daniel Lee Kearchner, 36, of Frostburg, Maryland, with an arrest warrant. Kearchner had an open warrant for second-degree assault and animal cruelty. Kearchner was later released on a \$2,500 unsecured bond.

These cases highlight the Maryland State Police mission of helping to prevent and investigate multi-jurisdictional crime while supporting allied law enforcement agencies across Maryland. The Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division – Firearms Enforcement Unit is committed to supporting Governor Hogan's efforts to reduce gun violence.



IMPACT UPDATE

Licensing Division Completes All Pending Firearm Purchase Background Investigations Following Delay

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – Four days of around-the-clock work resulted in the completion of all pending background investigations for regulated firearm purchase applicants that had been delayed due to a state data system failure.

Since the data system at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services was restored at about 8:30 p.m. on June 24, employees at the Maryland State Police Licensing Division worked 24-hours-a-day through 8:30 p.m. June 28 to complete background checks on persons who had applied to purchase regulated firearms. Priority was given to those

who had received firearms after the mandated seven-day waiting period had expired, but before their background checks had been completed.

Licensing Division employees completed more than 2,000 background investigations for regulated firearm purchase applications during that four-day period. They confirmed that no regulated firearms were released to any prohibited persons during that time.

Licensing Division employees have since returned to normal shifts. All applications to purchase regulated firearms are being completed



within the seven-day waiting period set forth in Maryland law.

The Maryland State Police Licensing Division appreciates the cooperation and assistance provided by the licensed firearms dealers in the state during this time.

The Division is also grateful for the efforts of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to address the data system failure as promptly as possible.

Leonardtwn Barrack Warns Public Of Dog Sale Scams

The Leonardtown Barrack has reported a recent increase in online scams related to sales of puppies for sale on various websites such where the seller requests payment be sent via gift cards, cash apps, etc., but the buyer never receives the animal.

No legitimate seller should ever request payments (for any service

or product) via gift cards, and you should only use payment apps with people you know and trust.

Victims can lose hundreds, sometimes thousands of dollars in such scams. Do not use peer-to-peer payment apps to send money to someone you don't know.

If you are a victim of such a fraud, or have information regarding such



a fraud, contact your local police department. Don't be a victim.